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CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS: Please add Claims 24 - 31, cancel Claims 3 and 23 without prejudice, and amend Claims 15, 16 and 21 as follows in re-written "clean" format:

Claim 15. (Amended/clean) A catalyst for treating an exhaust gas stream comprising a NO_X occluding catalyst structure having an outer layer, comprising:

an alkaline earth component;

a rare earth component; and

a binder wherein the binder is selected from the group consisting of acidic aluminum oxide sol, alkaline aluminum oxide sol, ammonium aluminum oxide sol, and mixtures thereof, and is present in an amount of at least about 2 wt% and less than about 6 wt%.

16. (Amended/Marked-up) A catalyst for treating an exhaust gas stream comprising:

a NO_x occluding catalyst structure comprising an alkaline earth exchanged zeolite and an alkaline earth alumina having an outer layer comprising at least about 50 wt% of an alkaline earth oxide component, not more than about 42 wt% of a rare earth oxide component, a surface area stabilizer, and a ceramic oxide binder.

21. (Amended/clean) A catalyst for treating an exhaust gas stream comprising:

a NO_x occluding catalyst structure having an outer layer comprising at least about 70 wt% calcium component, not more than about 25 wt % neodymium component, not more than about 3 wt% stabilizer and at least about 2 wt% binder.

24. (New) A catalyst for treating an exhaust gas stream comprising:

a NO_x occluding catalyst structure comprising a material selected from the group consisting of an alkaline earth exchanged zeolite, an alkaline earth alumina, and mixtures thereof, having an outer layer comprising an alkaline earth oxide component, a rare earth oxide component, a surface area stabilizer, and a ceramic oxide binder.

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25. (New) A method for making a catalyst, comprising:

combining a calcium compound and a neodymium compound with a support to form a calcium-neodymium catalyst;

combining the calcium-neodymium catalyst with a binder;

washcoating a substrate with the calcium-neodymium catalyst; and

calcining the washcoated substrate.

26. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the calcium compound is selected from the group consisting of calcium succinate, calcium tartrate, calcium citrate, calcium acetate, calcium carbonate, calcium hydroxide, calcium oxylate, calcium oleate, calcium palmitate and calcium oxide.

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27. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the neodymium compound is selected from the group consisting of neodymium acetate, neodymium citrate, neodymium oxylate, neodymium salicylate, neodymium carbonate, neodymium hydroxide and neodymium oxide.

28. (New) The method of Claim 27, wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of an alkaline earth exchanged zeolite, an alkaline earth alumina, and mixtures thereof.

29. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the binder is selected from the group consisting of acidic aluminum oxide sol, alkaline aluminum oxide sol, and ammonium aluminum oxide sol, and mixtures thereof.

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30. (New) A catalyst for treating an exhaust gas stream, comprising:

a NOx occluding catalyst structure comprising a material selected from the group consisting of an alkaline earth exchanged zeolite, an alkaline earth alumina, and mixtures thereof, having an outer layer comprising at least about 50 weight percent of an alkaline earth component, and not more than about 42 weight percent of a rare earth component.

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31. (New) The catalyst of Claim 21, wherein said stabilizer is selected from the group consisting of oxides of silicon, titanium, zirconium, and mixtures thereof.